

S W I

- Firm we subside, yet possible to *swerve*. *Milton*.
Many who, through the contagion of ill example, *swerve* exceedingly from the rules of their holy faith, yet would upon such an extraordinary warning be brought to comply with them. *Atterbury's Sermons*.
3. To ply; to bend.
Now their mightiest quell'd, the battle *swerv'd*
With many an inroad gor'd. *Milton*.
4. [I know not whence derived.] To climb on a narrow body.
Ten wildings have I gather'd for my dear,
Upon the topmost branch, the tree was high,
Yet nimble up from bough to bough I *swerv'd*. *Dryden*.
She fled, returning by the way she went,
And *swerv'd* along her bow with swift ascent. *Dryden*.
- SWIFT. *adj.* [from *swift*, Saxon.]
1. Moving far in a short time; quick; fleet; speedy; nimble; rapid.
Thou art so far before,
That *swiftest* wing of recompence is slow
To overtake thee. *Shakespeare*.
Yet are these feet, whose strengthless stay is numb,
Unable to support this lump of clay, *Shakespeare*.
Swift-winged with desire to get a grave. *Shakespeare*.
Men of war, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and as *swift* as the roes upon the mountains. *Chron. xii. 8*.
We imitate and practise to make *swifter* motions than any out of other muskets. *Bacon*.
To him with *swift* ascent he up return'd. *Milton*.
Things that move so *swift* as not to affect the senses distinctly, with several distinguishable distances of their motion, and so cause not any train of ideas in the mind, are not perceived to move. *Locke*.
It preserves the ends of the bones from incalcescence, which they, being solid bodies, would contract from any *swift* motion. *Ray*.
Thy stumbling founder'd jade can trot as high
As any other Pegasus can fly;
So the dull eel moves nimbler in the mud,
Than all the *swift* fin'd racers of the flood. *Dorset*.
Clouded in a deep abyss of light,
While present, too severe for human sight,
Nor staying longer than one *swift*-wing'd night. *Prior*.
Mantiger made a circle round the chamber, and the *swift*-footed martin pursued him. *Arbutnot*.
There too my son,—ah once my best delight,
Once *swift* of foot, and terrible in fight. *Pope's Odyssey*.
Swift they descend, with wing to wing conjoin'd,
Stretch their broad plumes, and float upon the wind. *Pope*.
2. Ready.
Let every man be *swift* to hear, slow to speak. *Ja. i. 19*.
He made intricate seem straight,
To mischief *swift*. *Milton*.
- SWIFT. *n. f.* [from the quickness of their flight.]
1. A bird like a swallow; a martin.
Swifts and swallows have remarkably short legs, and their toes grasp any thing very strongly. *Darham*.
2. The current of a stream.
He can live in the strongest *swifts* of the water. *Walton*.
SWIFTLY. *adv.* [from *swift*.] Fleetly; rapidly; nimbly; with celerity; with velocity.
These move *swiftly*, and at great distance; but then they require a medium well disposed, and their transmission is easily stopped. *Bacon's Natural History*.
Pleas'd with the passage, we slide *swiftly* on,
And see the dangers which we cannot shun. *Dryden*.
In decent order they advance to light;
Yet then too *swiftly* fleet by human sight,
And meditate too soon their everlasting flight. *Prior*.
- SWIFTESS. *n. f.* [from *swift*.] Speed; nimbleness; rapidity; quickness; velocity; celerity.
Let our proportions for these wars
Be soon collected, and all thing thought upon,
That may with reasonable *swiftness* add
More feathers to our wings. *Shakespeare's Henry V*.
We may outrun
By violent *swiftness* that which we run at;
And lose by over running. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII*.
Speed to describe whose *swiftness* number fails. *Milton*.
Exulting, till he finds their nobler sense
Their disproportion'd speed does recompense;
Then curses his conspiring feet, whose scent
Betrays that safety which their *swiftness* lent. *Danham*.
Such is the mighty *swiftness* of your mind,
That like the earth's, it leaves our sense behind. *Dryden*.
To SWIFT. *v. n.* [from *swift*, Saxon.] To drink by large draughts.
To SWILL. *v. a.* [from *swill*, Saxon.]
1. To drink luxuriously and grossly.
The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar
That spoil'd your summer fields and fruitful vines,
Swill'd your warm blood like wash, and makes his trough
In your embow'd bosoms. *Shakespeare's Richard III*.

S W I

- The most common of these causes are an hereditary disposition, *swilling* down great quantities of cold watery liquors. *Arbutnot on Diet*.
- Such is the poet, fresh in pay,
The third night's profits of his play;
His morning draughts till noon can *swill*,
Among his brethren of the quill. *Swift*.
2. To wash; to drench.
As fearfully as doth a galled rock
O'erhang and jutty his confounded base,
Swill'd with the wild and wasteful ocean. *Shakespeare*.
With that a German oft has *swill'd* his throat,
Deluded, that imperial Rhine bestow'd
The generous rummer. *Philips*.
3. To inebriate.
I should be loth
To meet the rudeness and *swill'd* insolence
Of such late wallahers. *Milton*.
He drinks a *swilling* draught; and lin'd within,
Will supple in the bath his outward skin. *Dryden*.
SWILL. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Drink, luxuriously poured down.
Give wine such *swill* as you have. *Mortimer*.
Thus as they swim, in mutual *swill* the talk
Reels fast from theme to theme. *Thomson*.
- SWILLER. *n. f.* [from *swill*.] A luxurious drinker.
To SWIM. *v. n.* Preterite *swam*, *swum*, or *swum*. [from *swim*, Saxon; *swemmen*, Dutch.]
1. To float on the water; not to sink.
I will scarce think you have *swam* in a gondola. *Shakespeare*.
We have ships and boats for going under water, and brooking of seas; also *swimming*-girdles and supporters. *Bacon*.
2. To move progressively in the water by the motion of the limbs.
Leap in with me into this angry flood,
And swim to yonder point. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar*.
I have ventur'd,
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
These many summers in a sea of glory;
But far beyond my depth. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII*.
The soldiers counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should *swim* out and escape. *Alt. xxvii. 42*.
The rest driven into the lake, where seeking to save their lives by *swimming*, they were slain in coming to land by the Spanish horsemen, or else in their *swimming* shot by the harquebusers. *Kneller*.
Animals *swim* in the same manner as they go, and need no other way of motion for natation in the water, than for progression upon the land. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.
The frighted wolf now *swims* among the sheep,
The yellow lion wanders in the deep;
I he flag *swims* faster than he ran before. *Dryden*.
Blue Triton gave the signal from the shore,
The ready Nereids heard and *swam* before,
To smooth the seas. *Dryden*.
3. To be conveyed by the stream.
With tenders of our protection of them from the fury of those who would soon drown them, if they refused to swim down the popular stream with them. *King Charles*.
I *swam* with the tide, and the water under me was buoyant. *Dryden*.
4. To glide along with a smooth or dizzy motion.
She with pretty and with *swimming* gate
Follying, her womb then rich with my young squire
Would imitate. *Shakespeare*.
A hovering mist came *swimming* o'er his sight,
And seal'd his eyes in everlasting night. *Dryden*.
My slack hand dropt, and all the idle pomp,
Priests, altars, victims *swam* before my sight! *Smith*.
The fainting soul stood ready wing'd for flight,
And o'er his eye-balls *swam* the shades of night. *Pope*.
5. To be dizzy; to be vertiginous.
I am taken with a grievous *swimming* in my head, and such a mist before my eyes, that I can neither hear nor see. *Dryden*.
6. To be floated.
When the heavens are filled with clouds, when the earth swims in rain, and all nature wears a lowering countenance, I withdraw myself from these uncomfortable scenes into the visionary worlds of art. *Addison's Spectator*.
Sudden the ditches swell, the meadows *swim*. *Thomson*.
7. To have abundance of any quality; to flow in any thing.
They now *swim* in joy,
Ere long to swim at large, and laugh; for which
The world a world of tears must weep. *Milton*.
- To SWIM. *v. a.* To pass by swimming.
Sometimes he thought to swim the stormy main,
By stretch of arms the distant shore to gain. *Dryden*.
SWIMM. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The bladder of fishes by which they are supported in the water.
The braces have the nature and use of tendons, in contracting the *swim*, and thereby transfusing the air out of one bladder into another, or discharging it from them both. *Swimmer*.

S W I

- SWIMMER. *n. f.* [from *swim*.]
1. One who swims.
Birds find ease in the depth of the air, as swimmers do in a deep water. *Bacon*.
Latrofitous and flat billed birds, being generally swimmers, the organ is wisely contrived for action. *Brown*.
Life is oft preserv'd
By the bold swimmer, in the swift illapse
Of accident disastrous. *Thomson*.
2. The swimmer is situated in the fore legs of a horse, above the knees, and upon the inside, and almost upon the back parts of the hind legs, a little below the ham: this part is without hair, and resembles a piece of hard dry horn. *Farrier's Dict.*
- SWIMMINGLY. *adv.* [from *swimming*.] Smoothly; without obstruction. A low word.
John got on the battlements, and called to Nick, I hope the cause goes on swimmingly. *Arbutnot*.
- SWINE. *n. f.* [from *swyn*, Saxon; *swyn*, Dutch. It is probably the plural of some old word, and is now the same in both numbers.] A hog; a pig. A creature remarkable for stupidity and naiveness.
O monstrous beast! how like a swine he lies! *Shakespeare*.
He will be *swine* drunk; and in his sleep he does little harm, save to his bedclothes. *Shakespeare*.
- Who knows not Circe,
The daughter of the Sun? whose charmed cup
Whoever tasted, lost his upright shape,
And downward fell into a groveling swine. *Milton*.
Had the upper part, to the middle, been of human shape, and all below *swine*, had it been murder to destroy it? *Locke*.
How infinitely varies in the grovelling *swine*,
Compar'd, half reasoning elephant, with thine! *Pope*.
SWINEHEAD. *n. f.* A kind of plant; trifles. *Bailey*.
SWINEHERD. *n. f.* [from *swyn* and *herd*, Saxon.] A keeper of hogs. *Tusser*.
There *swineherd*, that keepeth the hog.
The whole interview between Ulysses and Eumeus has fallen into ridicule: Eumeus has been judged to be of the same rank and condition with our modern *swineherds*. *Brome*.
SWINEPIKE. *n. f.* A bird of the thrush kind. *Bailey*.
To SWING. *v. n.* [from *swing*, Saxon.]
1. To wave too and fro hanging loosely.
I tried if a pendulum would swing faster, or continue swinging longer in our receiver, in case of exhalation of the air, than otherwise. *Boyle*.
If the coach swing but the least to one side, she used to shriek so loud, that all concluded she was overturned. *Arbutnot*.
Jack hath hang'd himself: let us go see how he swings. *Arb.*
When the swinging signs your ears offend
With creaking noise, then rainy floods impend. *Gay*.
2. To fly backward and forward on a rope.
To SWING. *v. a.* preterite *swang*, *swung*.
1. To make to play loosely on a string.
2. To whirl round in the air.
His sword prepar'd
He *swang* about his head, and cut the winds. *Shakespeare*.
Take bottles and swing them: fill not the bottles full, but leave some air, else the liquor cannot play nor flower. *Bacon*.
Swinging a red-hot iron about, or fastening it unto a wheel under that motion, it will sooner grow cold. *Brown*.
Swing thee in the air, then dash thee down,
To th' hazard of thy brains and flatter'd sides. *Milton*.
3. To wave loosely.
If one approach to dare his force,
He swings his tail, and swiftly turns him round. *Dryden*.
- SWING. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Motion of any thing hanging loosely.
In casting of any thing, the arms, to make a greater swing, are first cast backward. *Bacon's Natural History*.
Men use a pendulum, as a more steady and regular motion than that of the earth; yet if any one should ask how he certainly knows that the two successive swings of a pendulum are equal, it would be very hard to satisfy him. *Locke*.
2. A line on which any thing hangs loose.
3. Influence or power of a body put in motion:
The ram that batters down the wall,
For the great swing and rudeness of his poize, *Shakespeare*.
They place before his hand that made the engine.
In this encyclopaedia, and round of knowledge, like the great wheels of heaven, we're to observe two circles, that, while we are daily carried about, and whirled on by the swing and rapt of the one, we may maintain a natural and proper course in the sober wheel of the other. *Brown*.
The descending of the earth to this orbit is not upon that mechanical account Cartesius pretends, namely, the strong swing of the more solid globuli that overflow it. *Mare*.
4. Course; unrestrained liberty; abandonment to any motive.
Facts unjust
Commit, even to the full swing of his lust. *Chapman*.
Take thy swing:
For not to take, is but the self-same thing. *Dryden*.

S W I

- Let them all take their swing
To pillage the king,
And get a blue ribband instead of a string. *Swift*.
5. Unrestrained tendency.
Where the swing goeth, there follow, fawn, flatter, laugh, and lie lustily at other mens liking. *Ascham's Schoolmaster*.
These exuberant productions only excited and fomented his lusts; so that his whole time lay upon his hands, and gave him leisure to contrive and with full swing pursue his follies. *Wood*.
Those that are so persuaded, desire to be wife in a way that will gratify their appetites, and so give up themselves to the swing of their unbounded propensities. *Glavin's Scpt. Preface*.
Were it not for these, civil government were not able to stand before the prevailing swing of corrupt nature, which would know no honesty but advantage. *South*.
- To SWINGE. *v. a.* [from *swing*, Saxon.]
1. To whip; to bastinado; to punish.
Sir, I was in love with my bed: I thank you, you swing'd me for my love, which makes me the bolder to chide you for your's. *Shakespeare's Two Gent. of Verona*.
This very rev'rend lecher, quite worn out
With rheumatisms, and crippled with his gout,
Forgets what he in youthful times has done,
And swings his own vices in his son. *Dryden, Jun. Juvenal*.
The printer brought along with him a bundle of those papers, which, in the phrase of the whig-coffeehouses, have swung off the Examiner. *Swift*.
2. To move as a lash. Not in use.
He, wroth to see his kingdom fail,
Swinge the scaly horror of his folded tail. *Milton*.
- SWINGE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A sway; a sweep of any thing in motion. Not in use.
The shallow water doth her force infringe,
And renders vain her tail's impetuous swing. *Waller*.
- SWINGBUCKLER. *n. f.* [from *swing* and *buckler*.] A bully; a man who pretends to feats of arms.
You had not four such swingbucklers in all the inns of court again. *Shakespeare's Henry IV*.
- SWINGER. *n. f.* [from *swing*.] He who swings; a hurler.
SWINGING. *adj.* [from *swing*.] Great; huge. A low word.
The countryman seeing the lion disarmed, with a swinging cudgel broke off the match. *L'Estrange*.
A good swinging sum of John's readiest cash went towards building of Hocus's countryhouse. *Arbutnot*.
- SWINGINGLY. *adv.* [from *swing*.] Vastly; greatly.
Henceforward he'll print neither pamphlets nor linen,
And, if swearing can do't, shall be swingingly maul'd. *Swift*.
- To SWINGLE. *v. n.* [from *swing*.]
1. To dangle; to wave hanging.
2. To swing in pleasure.
SWINISH. *adj.* [from *swine*.] Befitting swine; resembling swine; gross; brutal.
They clepe us drunkards, and with *swinish* phrase
Soil our addition. *Shakespeare's Hamlet*.
Swinish gluttony
Ne'er looks to heav'n amidst his gorgeous feast;
But, with besotted base ingratitude,
Craves and blasphemes his feeder. *Milton*.
- To SWINK. *v. n.* [from *swinc*, Saxon.] To labour; to toil; to drudge. Obsolete.
Riches, renown, and principality,
For which men *swink* and sweat incessantly. *Fairy Queen*.
For they do *swink* and sweat to feed the other,
Who live like lords of that which they do gather. *Hub. Tale*.
- To SWINK. *v. a.* To overlabour.
The labour'd ox
In his loose traces from the furrow came,
And the *swink'd* hedger at his supper sat. *Milton*.
- SWINK. *n. f.* [from *swinc*, Saxon.] Labour; toil; drudgery. Obsolete.
Ah, Piers, been thy teeth on edge, to think
How great sport they gaynen with little *swinke*? *Spenser*.
Thou's but a lazy loorde,
And rekes much of thy *swinke*. *Spenser*.
SWITCH. *n. f.* A small flexible twig.
Fetch me a dozen crabtree slaves, and strong ones; these are but *switches*. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII*.
When a circle 'bout the wrist
Is made by beadle exorcist,
The body feels the spur and *switch*. *Hudibras*.
Mauritania, on the fifth medal, leads a horse with something like a thread; in her other hand she holds a *switch*. *Addison*.
- To SWITCH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To lash; to jerk.
Lay thy bridle's weight
Most of thy left side; thy right horse then *switching*, all thy throat
Spent in encouragements, give him; and all the rein let float. *Chapman's Iliad*.
- SWIVEL. *n. f.* Something fixed in another body so as to turn round in it. *Greaves*.